oblongo-quadrata; quartum quadratum, et reliquis minus: *marginalia* quadrata; primum et secundum horizontalia, plana; reliqua omnia ad marginem testæ revoluto-carinata. *Scutum nuchale* minimum, lineare, anticè acutè prominens: *caudale* latè pentagonum, apice revoluto. *Sternum* lutescens, badio nebulosum. *Scuta jugalia* parva, triangularia, extrorsùm unidentata; *humeralia* subrhomboidea; *pectoralia* introrsùm attenuata, extrorsùm latiora, anticè profundè sinuata; *abdominalia* magna, quadrata; *femoralia* latè quadrata, extrorsùm latiora; *analia* rhomboidea; *axillaria* et *inguinalia* minima.

Testæ osseæ mensura.

	unc.	lin.
Longitudo dorsi	4	2
Latitudo ejusdem	3	0
Altitudo	1	8
Longitudo sterni	3	7

The variations in colour as well as in form, to which this tortoise is liable, have occasioned some former writers to describe its mere varieties as no less than three distinct species, in addition to the original *Testudo areolata* of Thunberg. These are *T. pusilla* of Daudin, or rather of Worm, (*la Vermillon* of Lacépède), *T. Cafra* and *T. fasciata* of the former author; and the descriptions are, fortunately, sufficiently clear to enable us to identify the whole of them with the first-mentioned species. The red horny protuberant scale above the nose, the bright colour of which, in an individual specimen, suggested to Lacépède the name of "Vermillon," exists in all, though it is generally of a dull red or reddish brown. The colour of the plates also varies very much not only in intensity but in hue. Thus of seven specimens now lying before me, no two are sufficiently alike to answer perfectly to a single minute description. The disk and the extreme edge of each dorsal plate are always alike, being of a brown hue, varying from a deep pitch-colour to a light bay. The intermediate space is either bright yellow, dirty greenish yellow, or a bright pale green. The proportions of the two colours also differ in different individuals. Intermixed with the hues just mentioned, there are sometimes obscure traits of purplish brown and of other approximating colours, though I have certainly never seen

any specimen which would justify the description given by Lacépède, "les lames sont agréablement variées de noir, de blanc, de pourpre, de verdâtre, et de jaune." The prevailing colours however are brown, and greenish yellow; and in the specimen from which the present illustrations were taken, both the green and the bay were brighter and paler than in any other I have seen. The sternum is sometimes uniformly yellowish white; but in most there is a considerable portion of light brown or bay in each sternal scutum, which sometimes pervades the greater part of its surface. But it is not in the colours only that this species varies so remarkably; in the form and height of the shell, in the degree of revolution of the margin, and especially in the number of dorsal and marginal plates, it is also liable to some striking accidental deviations. In the latter respect, the variation has sometimes been assumed as a specific character, as in that of *T. Cafra* of Daudin, "margine loricæ dorsalis scutellis 27." This must have arisen from ignorance of the general uniformity of the law which assigns to all the Testudinata with plates, the same number of dorsal scuta, namely thirteen; a rule to which there is but a solitary exception in the case of one species of marine turtle. The additional plates which thus accidentally occur, always appear as if severed from one of the normal ones. I have a specimen in which there are two additional costal scuta, one being introduced on each side between the fourth costal and the fifth vertebral. In another, a small square plate is placed between the fourth and fifth vertebral. In a third, there are ten marginal scuta on one side, and eleven on the other; a fourth has twenty-six marginal plates, and a fifth but twenty-two. All these varieties occur in seven specimens now before me, which have come into my possession promiscuously and without selection.

I cannot agree with those authors who have referred Seba's figure (Tom. I. tab. lxxx. fig. 6.) to this species. It appears to me much more to resemble the young state of *T. tabulata,* to which also the colour, a light yellow, more truly appertains. Nor does it answer to the character of *T. pusilla* of Linnæus, as given both by him and by Schneider. The only tolerable figure with which I am acquainted is that of Schœpff, which however has the distinct marking and the hard abrupt outline of colour which usually belong only to dried specimens.